DAREDEVIL®

FATHER

1

MARVEL MAX SPECIAL EDITION

QUESADA
MIKI
ISANOVE

DIRECTOR'S CUT

HELL'S KITCHEN.
HERE, YOU LEARN TO GROW UP FAST.
BUT THERE'S REALLY ONLY ONE LESSON YOU NEED TO LEARN IF YOU WANT TO SURVIVE THIS JUNGLE.

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IT'S A LESSON "BATTLIN' JACK MURDOCK" MADE SURE I LEARNED WELL.
"BATTLIN' JACK" WAS MY FATHER; HE MADE HIS LIVING AS A BOXER.
LET'S JUST SAY HE WASN'T BIG ON WORDS.
WHICH WAS FINE; I WASN'T BIG ON LISTENING.
HE DID, HOWEVER, HAVE A WAY OF GETTING ME TO OPEN MY EYES

AND, WHAT MY EYES HAVE SEEN
LIKE WHEN I DISCOVERED THAT DAD ALSO MADE A BIT OF SPARE CHANGE ROUGHING UP THE LOCALS ON BEHALF OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD WISE GUYS.
AS A KID, I SAW A LOT OF BAD STUFF.
ENOUGH TO LAST A LIFETIME.
WHICH WAS GOOD...

NOT SURPRISING HOW THE CHEMICAL COCKTAIL THAT POURED INTO MY EYES AND FACE MADE ME GO BLIND.

WHAT WAS SURPRISING WAS WHAT IT DID FOR MY FOUR REMAINING SENSES.

SINCE THEN, MY LIFE HAS BECOME A SYMPHONY OF SCENTS...

...TASTES...

...SOUNDS...

...AND TEXTURES.

MAKES YOU REALIZE HOW EYESIGHT CAN JUST SORT OF GET IN YOUR WAY.

SOMETIMES, SOMEONE ELSE.
SO, THAT'S WHAT I'VE DONE.
I'VE BEEN PUTTING ON THIS SILLY RED DEVIL SUIT FOR MUCH LONGER THAN I CARE TO REMEMBER.

THANKS, POP.
HAPPY FATHER'S DAY.

GENTLEMEN...
...MY HUSBAND, SEAN.
PLEASURE TO MEET Y--
YOU KNOW HOW I HATE THIS NEIGHBORHOOD. NOTHING BUT BAD MEMORIES.
SEAN, PLEASE, DONT--
I TOLD YOU I DIDN'T WANT TO COME HERE.
LOOK, MISTER...?
MURDOCK.
MR. MURDOCK. MAGGIE AND I, WE GREW UP HERE IN THE KITCHEN AND I WORKED REAL HARD TO GET US OUT.
SO, THE SOONER WE CAN GET THIS OVER WITH, THE BETTER.
OLD SPICE.
WELL, IF YOU DON'T MIND ME ASKING, MR. FARRELL, WHY COME TO US THEN?
HE'S WEARING OLD SPICE, NO WONDER SHE--
BECAUSE SHE WANTS YOU! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE THE BEST, YOU'RE ON TV, YOU'RE THE KID FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD WHO'S MADE GOOD.
SHE WANTS THE BEST, SO THAT'S WHAT WE DO, WE COME TO THE BEST.

FOR THE NEXT FOUR-PLUS HOURS, WE LISTEN TO HER STORY.
IN EVERY DETAIL SHE TELLS US HOW NJ?{L HAS BEEN ILLEGALLY DUMPING CHEMICALS INTO THEIR LOCAL RIVER...
...INFECTING THE WATER TABLE.
INFECTING THE EARTH UNDER HER HOME...
INFECTING HER BODY.
SHE DIDN'T GET SUPER POWERS, SHE DIDN'T GET ENHANCED SENSES.
SHE GOT CANCER.
...WE'VE BEEN TRYING FOR MONTHS, PETITIONING AND PROTESTING OUTSIDE OF THE PLANT, BUT UP UNTIL NOW THEY'VE DONE NOTHING BUT IGNORE US.
SEAN'S BLOOD PRESSURE-- HE'S IMPATIENT, AGITATED.
WE HIRED AN INSPECTOR AND HE--
FOR CRYING OUT LOUD, MAGGIE, JUST GET TO THE POINT.
LOOK, MR. MURDOCK, WHEN WE GOT MARRIED, I PROMISED MY WIFE I WOULD TAKE HER AWAY FROM THIS HELLHOLE.
SEVEN YEARS AGO I GOT A JOB WITH THE SANITATION DEPARTMENT. IT AIN'T GLAMOROUS, BUT IT BOUGHT US A NICE HOUSE AND PICKET FENCE IN THE 'BURBS.
WE MOVED OUT--MOVED OUT TO START A FAMILY, AND NOW *THIS*--THIS HAPPENS.
SEAN, PLEASE DON'T--
SHE HAS *OVARIAN* CANCER, MR. MURDOCK, WE *CAN'T* HAVE KIDS! WE CAN *NEVER* HAVE KIDS!
THEY *TOOK* THAT AWAY FROM US.
THEY TOOK THAT *AWAY*.

...I WANT TO THANK YOU BOTH FOR COMING IN AND TRUSTING US WITH YOUR CASE.
I PROMISE YOU: FRANKLIN AND I WILL GIVE THIS OUR UTMOST ATTENTION.
BUT I DO HAVE TO WARN YOU, MAGGIE. THIS WILL BE A VERY LONG AND PAINFUL FIGHT.
PAIN I'M USED TO, MR. MURDOCK.
IT'S TIME I MAY NOT HAVE.
FRANKLIN, COULD YOU--
IF YOU'LL BOTH FOLLOW ME, I JUST NEED YOU TO FILL OUT SOME PAPERWORK.
AND PLEASE, CALL ME FOGGY.
SHE'S A REMARKABLY BRAVE WOMAN.
BUT, THERE'S JUST SOMETHING ABOUT--
MR. FARRELL, A MOMENT IF YOU PLEASE?

Biographical

WE NOW RETURN TO BIOGRAPHICAL ON A & C, "NeRo: MY FATHER'S SON."

A STANDOUT STUDENT OF THE NYC PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM, NESTOR RODRIGUEZ SHOWED EARLY SIGNS THAT HE WAS DESTINED FOR GREATNESS.

THE SON OF HISPANIC RIGHTS ACTIVIST AND NYC COUNCILMAN HECTOR RODRIGUEZ, NESTOR DID NOT FALL FAR FROM THE TREE.

BY AGE THIRTEEN, NESTOR'S CONCERN FOR HIS COMMUNITY WAS ALREADY EVIDENT--FROM WORKING [redacted] SOUP KITCHENS TO BUILDING HOUSING FOR THE HOMELESS.

AND [redacted] THE NYC CRIME RATE SKYROCKETED WITHIN THE LATIN COMMUNITY DURING THE "CROSS BRONX DRUG WAR," NESTOR TOOK MATTERS INTO HIS OWN HANDS...

...SPEARHEADING THE CREATION OF THE STREET ANGELS--A CONTROVERSIAL BUT EFFECTIVE NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH GROUP WHOSE POPULARITY SOARED AS THE CRIME RATE DIPPED.

THAT EFFECT WOULD [redacted] SHORT-LIVED, HOWEVER, JUST AS THE ANGELS REACHED THE PEAK OF THEIR POPULARITY, TRAGEDY STRUCK...

...WHEN THE VIGILANTE KNOWN AS DAREDEVIL DISCOVERED THE SLAIN BODY OF NESTOR'S FATHER, HECTOR RODRIGUEZ.

AMIDST SWIRLING RUMORS THAT COUNCILMAN RODRIGUEZ'S MURDER WAS A CALLING CARD FROM THE VERY GANGS HIS SON WAS POLICING, THE ANGELS DISBANDED...JUST AS QUICKLY AS THEY WERE FORMED.

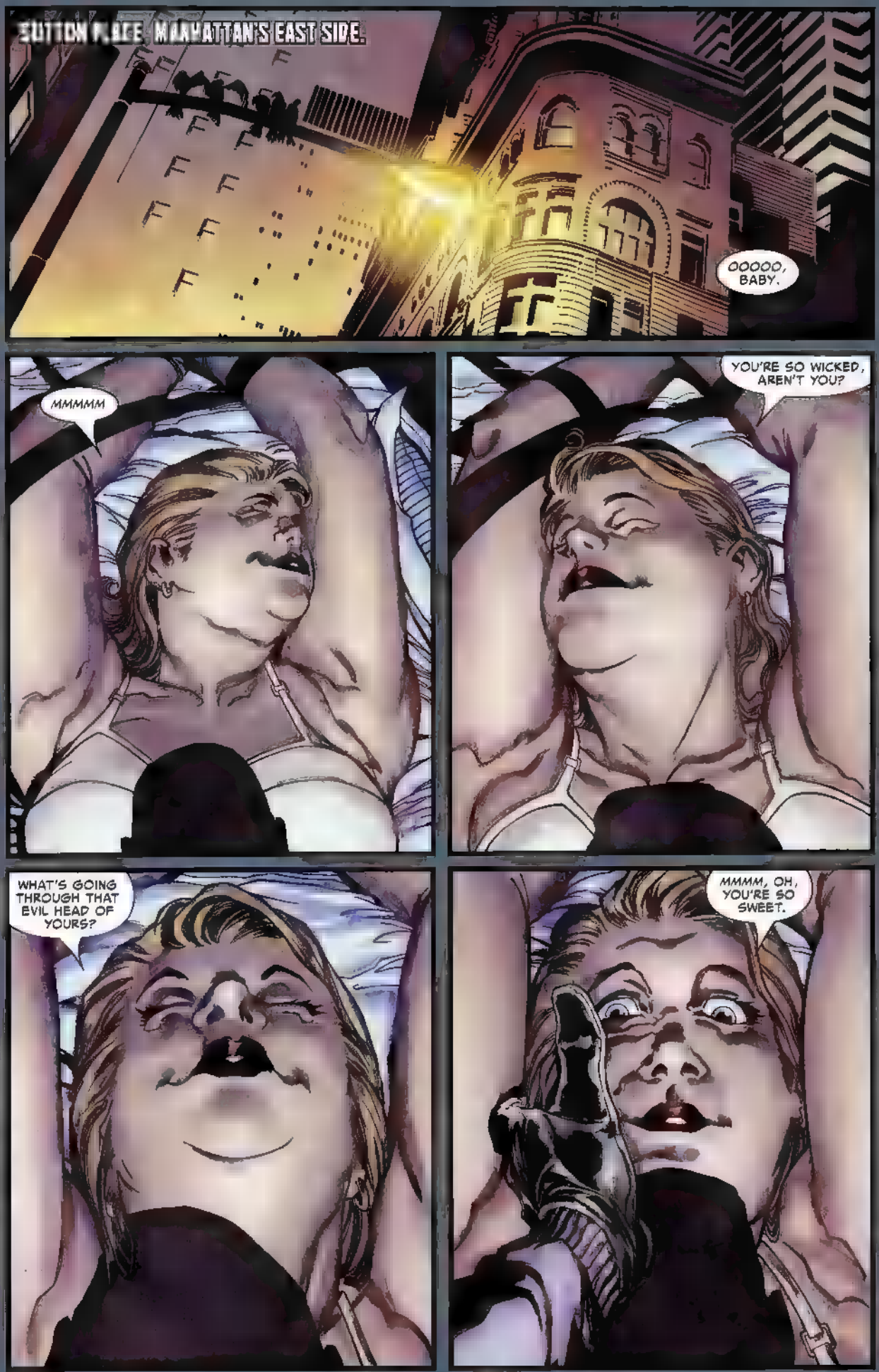
AND JUST AS QUICKLY AS HE HAD WON THE SPOTLIGHT, YOUNG NESTOR DISAPPEARED INTO SECLUSION.

LITTLE IS KNOWN OF NESTOR'S LIFE DURING HIS SELF-IMPOSED EXILE.

FIVE YEARS LATER, MAXIMIZING ON THE VAST FORTUNE HE INHERITED FROM HIS FATHER, NESTOR RECHRISTENED HIMSELF "NeRo" AND RESURFACED TO BEGIN HIS WELL-CHRONICLED [redacted] AS A MEDIA MOGUL.
AND TODAY--WITH HIS FLOURISHING INDY HIP-HOP LABEL, TRENDY RESTAURANTS, AND SIGNATURE CLOTHING LINE--NeRo IS, WITHOUT QUESTION, AMERICA'S NUMBER ONE ENTERTAINMENT ENTREPRENEUR.
HIS BEST-SELLING FRAGRANCE, "ONLY", HAS TAKEN THE MARKET BY STORM ON ITS UNIQUE CLAIM TO [redacted] SMELL THE SAME ON ANY TWO PEOPLE. AND NeRo'S FIRST SOLO ALBUM, "MY FATHER'S SON," REMAINS THE FASTEST-SELLING ALBUM IN BILLBOARD HISTORY.
WIDELY CONSIDERED ONE OF NYC'S MOST PROMINENT AND ELIGIBLE BACHELORS, NeRo'S STAR SHOWS NO SIGNS OF DIMMING.
RECENTLY SEEN ALONGSIDE FORMER MAYOR RUDOLPH GIULIANI AND HELL'S KITCHEN LAWYER/ACTIVIST, MATTHEW MURDOCK, NeRo [redacted] PRESENTED WITH THE CIVIC MEDAL OF--
CLK!
DAILY BUGLE
HEAT WAVE on the HORIZON!
HELL'S KITCHEN SPOTLESS
CRIME RATE CONTINUES TO FALL
DAREDEVIL COOKS CROOKS GOOD

OH NO, OH NO, OH NO!
I GUESS THIS LOSER DIDN'T GET THE MEMO.
IT SEEMS THAT NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU FUMIGATE A HOUSE...
CRACK
UNGH!
...THERE'LL ALWAYS ■ A ROACH OR TWO THAT'S LEFT ALIVE.
NNGH, PLEASE... PLEASE DON'T HURT ME.
I WAS JUST LOOKING...I JUST NEED ■ LITTLE CRANK, MAN.
THERE'S NO CRANK ■ THIS NEIGHBORHOOD.
NOT ANYMORE.
GUGH! I...I'M SOR...I'M SORRY... PLEASE DON'T HURT ME.
PLEASE, PLEASE...
...I'LL DO ANYTHING! JUST DON'T HURT ME.

10th PRECINCT
YOU DONE UP THERE, GIL?
I WILL BE AS SOON AS YOU HAND ME THAT SCREWDRIVER.
PAPER SAYS TOMORROW'S GONNA BE BRUTAL.
WORST HEAT WAVE IN YEARS.
SCREWDRIVER?
WHY IS IT EVERY YEAR WE GOTTA GO THROUGH THIS WITH THE A/C?
EXCUSE ME, OFFICER?
I NEED TO BE PLACED UNDER ARREST.


SUTTON PLACE, MANHATTAN'S EAST SIDE.
OOOOO, BABY.
MMMMM
YOU'RE SO WICKED, AREN'T YOU?
WHAT'S GOING THROUGH THAT EVIL HEAD OF YOURS?
MMMM, OH, YOU'RE SO SWEET.

SHHHHHH.
OOOO, SO DEMANDING.
NFF!
NFFFFF!
GFF! NFF!
ARUFFF!
AAAAAIIIIIEEEEEYAAAARGH!
TO BE CONTINUED...

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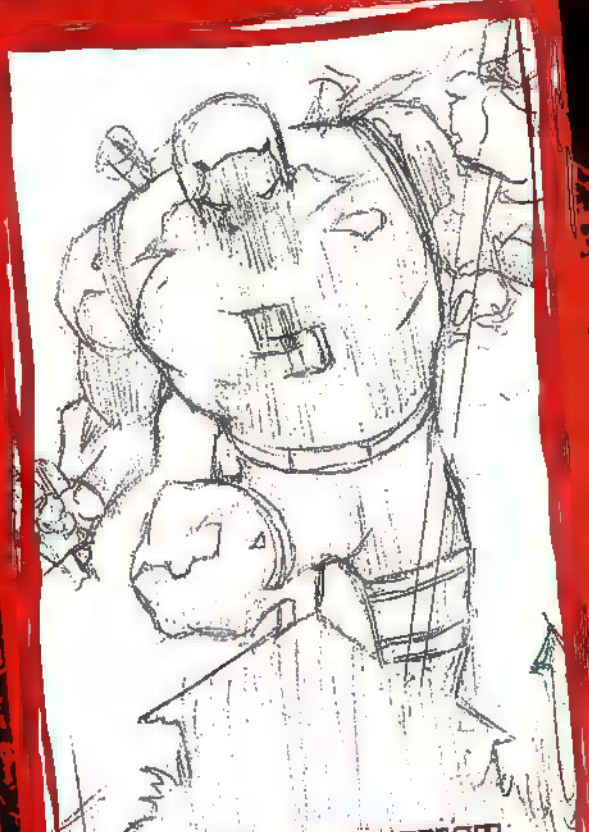

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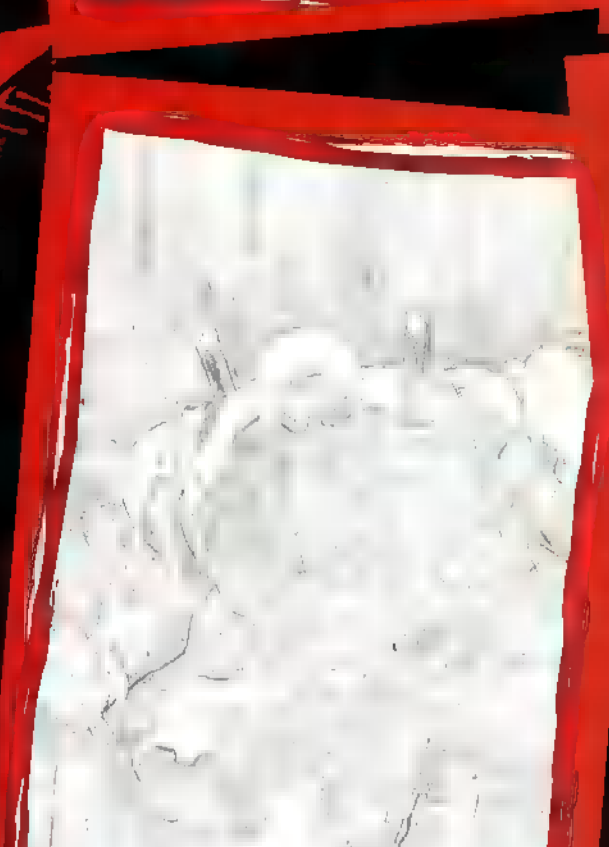

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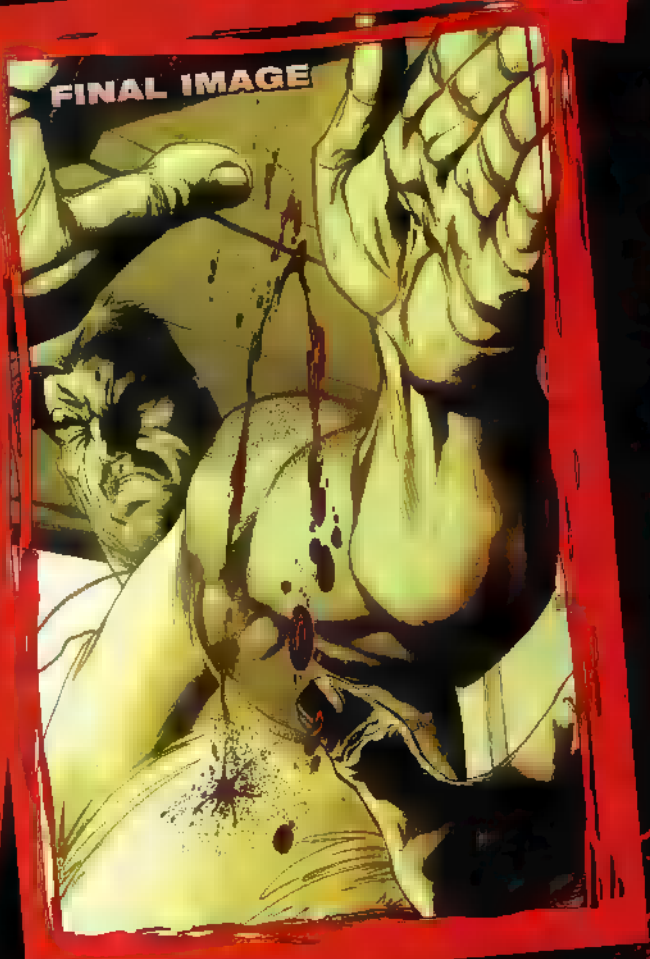

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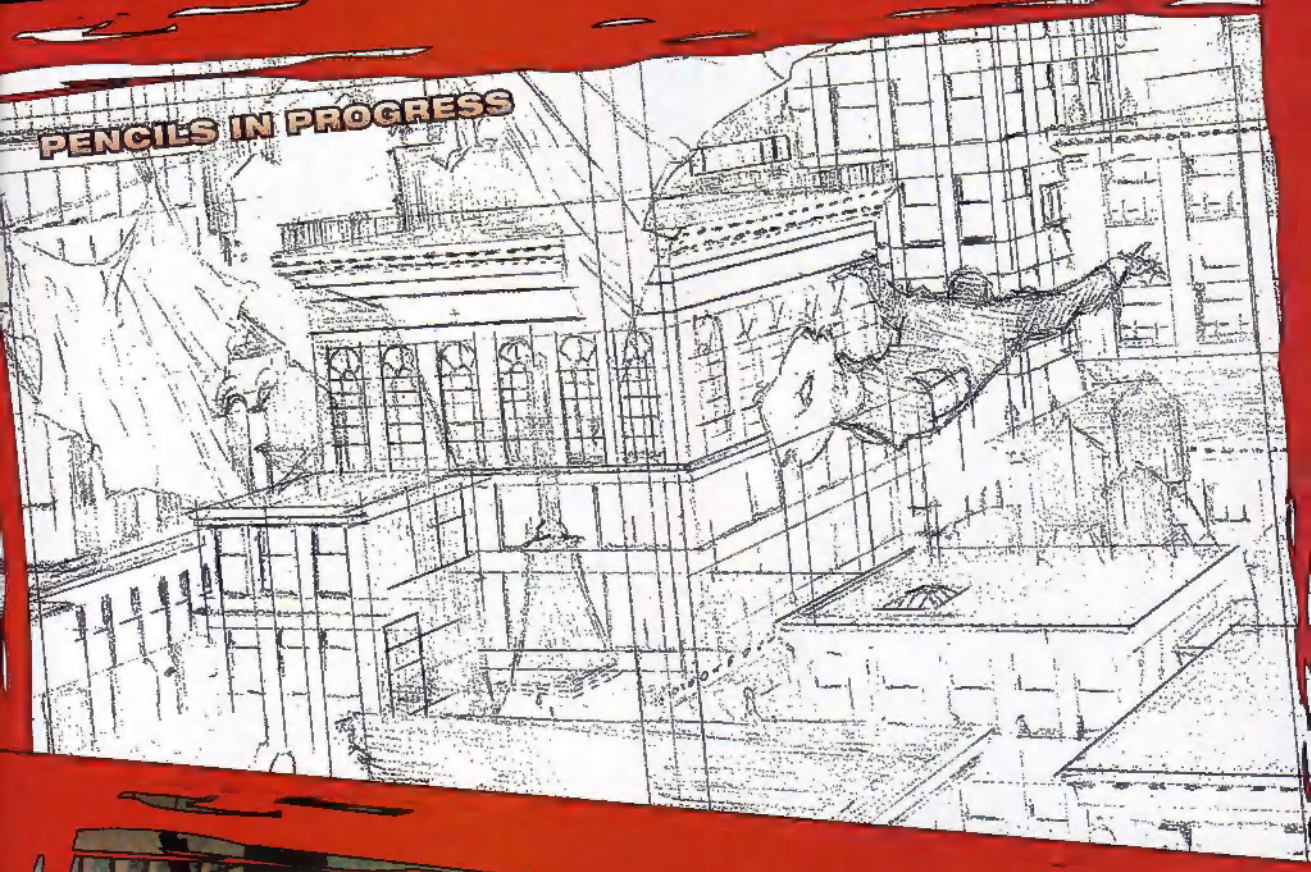

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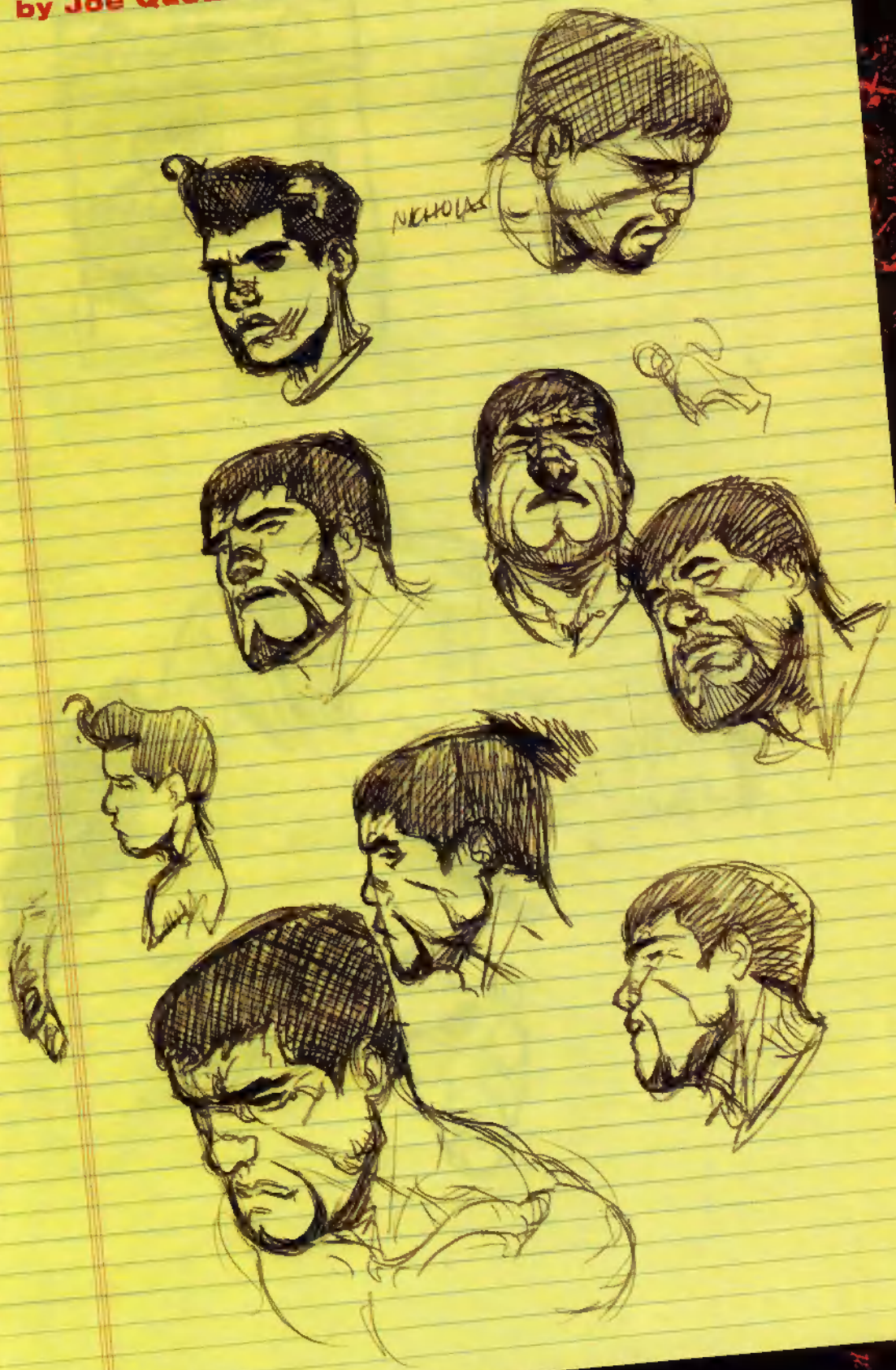
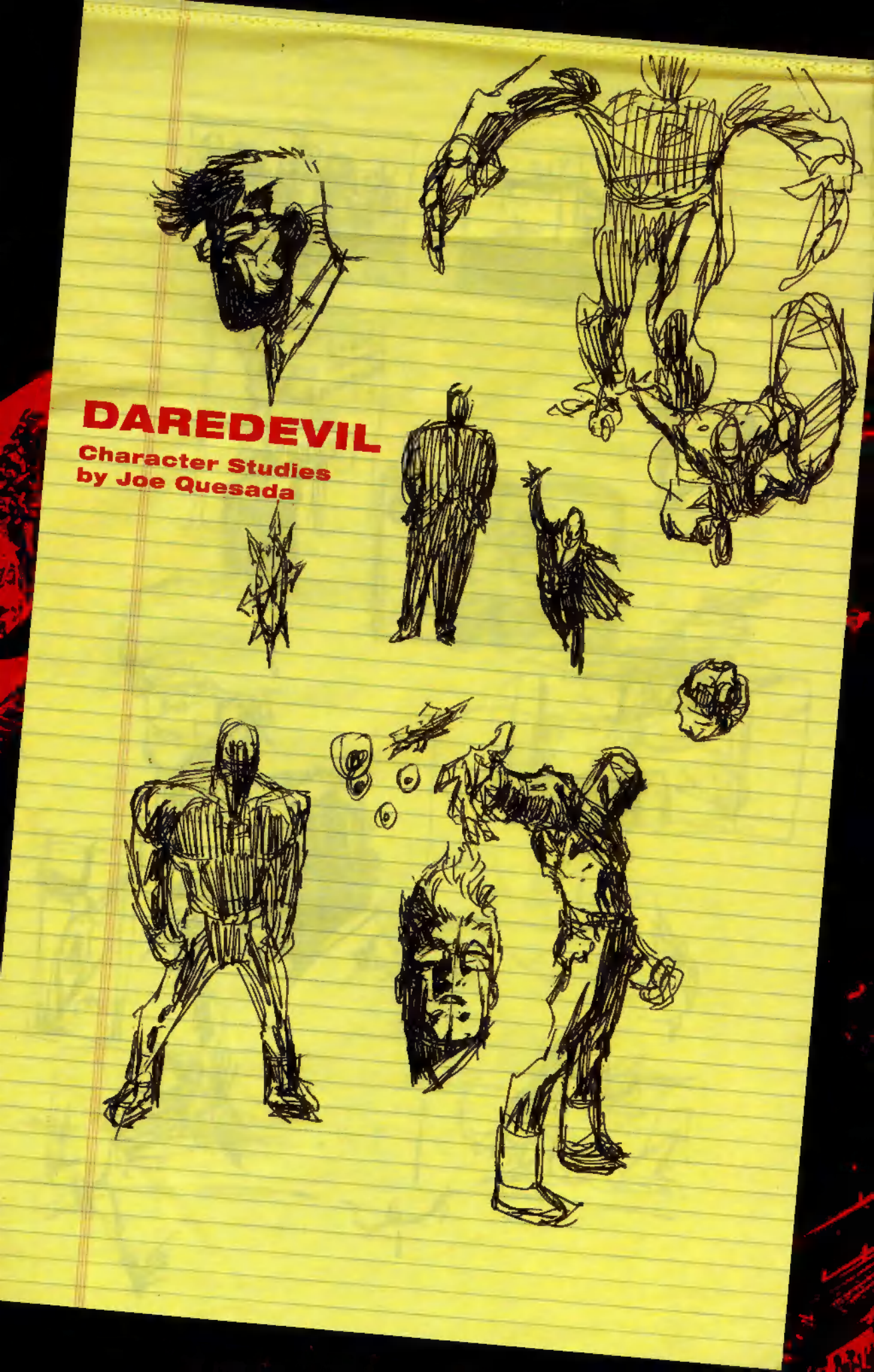
FINAL IMAGE

NESTOR

Character Studies by Joe Quesada

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